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**Address by:**

**H.E. Ambassador Makram M. Queisi**

**Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative of the Hashemite  
Kingdom of Jordan to the OSCE**

**17<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council  
Athens, 1-2 December 2009**

**Mr. Chairman  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Colleagues and Friends,**

On behalf of the Jordanian delegation, allow me to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Greece for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this seventeenth OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Athens. Allow me also to congratulate His Excellency Mr. George Papandreou, the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the Greek Chairmanship in 2009 and his skilful guidance of this meeting.

I would also like to express my country's appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan for chairing the Contact Group and wish them every success for their future Chairmanship of the Organization in 2010. I would also like to congratulate Lithuania, which takes over the chair of the Contact Group in 2010, and to assure them of our support and co-operation.

This meeting of the Ministerial Council provides an opportunity to review the progress made and the difficulties encountered in carrying out the basic mission of the Organization, which is an instrument for promoting peace and stability in the OSCE area including the Mediterranean region.

As one of the Mediterranean Partners, Jordan reaffirms its interest in strengthening the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE as part of the vast geographical and cultural OSCE space and its readiness to intensify cooperation with the OSCE on political and security matters and welcome dialogue on common concerns at the regional, sub-regional or bilateral levels. We are also committed to the promotion of security and co-operation, economic progress, respect for human rights and the development of democratic institutions.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We all face the same challenges and threats. Combating terrorism, transnational organized crime, intolerance, migration, global warming and energy security; represent a priority to all of us and pose the same threat on the Participating States and Mediterranean Partners alike.

Terrorism and the various terror groups and organizations pose a serious threat to global security. Jordan, its citizens, officials and interests, have been a target of terrorism due to its principled position and efforts in rejection and combating all forms of terrorism.

Jordan has declared its categorical condemnation of terrorism and stressed its support for the international efforts against this scourge. In the same vein, Jordan believes that terrorism is a global phenomenon without nationality and expressed its resolve to safeguard the sanctity of the Islamic faith from any abuse or distortion caused by terrorism or terrorists, insisting that terrorists must be deprived of any opportunity to hijack religion and misuse it to serve their purposes or advance their agenda. In particular, terrorists must be barred from provoking a confrontation between Islam and the rest of the world. In this regard, On November 9th ' 2004, His Majesty King Abdullah

II launched the Amman Message which seeks to reveal a message of tolerance and humanity; it opposes extremism, exaggeration, and intransigence.

The Amman Message emphasize that Islam's principles provide common ground among different faiths and peoples. The origin of divine religions is one, and Muslims believe in all messengers of God; denying the message of any of them is a deviation from Islam. The Amman Message reiterates the fact that Islam remains a religion of moderation and tolerance that does not condone assaulting civilians or causing damage in its name.

Jordan was one of the first countries to warn against the danger of terrorism on global security and stability and participated in formulating relevant agreements on the Arab and international levels. In its fight against terrorism, Jordan has adopted a three-track plan: On the Legislation Track: the Jordanian government amended its penal code to toughen sentences against crimes of a terrorist nature. And an anti-terror law was passed in 2006 to deal with terrorism-related crimes and funding. On the Executive Measures: Following the issuance of UNSC Resolution 1373 on countering terrorism, Jordan has taken a series of measures to comply with the resolution, including adopting the anti-money laundering Act 46 of 2007.

On the Treaties and Conventions: Jordan is party to anti-terror treaties and conventions dating back to the last century and has also helped in formulating a number of regional as well as international treaties with the aim of combating and curbing terrorism.

Jordan stresses the need to confront all ill-motivated attempts aiming at connecting Islam, or any other religion, with terrorism.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We all seek justice, peace and security. We all need to intensify our South-North dialogue. We all have the same long term interests and we all want to insure that regional security is established and developed through co-operation and transparency. This will be achieved through encountering these challenges and threats in an intensive and comprehensive manner to be able to avoid inevitable crises that will further undermine peace, stability and security in the region of the Middle East.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has almost defined the modern history of the Middle East. It is the central challenge of our day - not just in the region but around the world. It has brought untold suffering to the parties. It has held back regional development. And it is causing worldwide collateral damage - including extremist violence and a serious loss of faith in international justice.

Time has indeed come to focus more than before on re-starting the Peace Negotiations in the Middle East on the basis of the Arab Peace Initiative which is the most important proposal for peace in the history of this conflict. We do not have time to engage in another open-ended process. We have seen what comes of process without progress. There is a need for a clear plan to reach a comprehensive peace - one that builds on the achievements of previous negotiations. There must also be a vigorous leadership commitment, to ensure negotiations move fast, towards reconciliation on the basis of the two-state solution.

The elements of a settlement are known; the agenda for negotiations is agreed; there is a clear objective: Two states, each sovereign, viable, and secure.

It is against this understanding and conviction that His Majesty King Abdullah II advocates and tirelessly works for realizing the two-State solution and achieving comprehensive peace on the basis of the internationally agreed upon terms of reference, and the Arab Peace initiative, which offers Israel peace and normal relations with 22 Arab States and even beyond; with 57 Muslim States by virtue of the fact that the API was endorsed also by the Organization of Islamic States in return for the establishment of a Palestinian State along the borders of June 4th 1967 and Israel's withdrawal from the Syrian and Lebanese territories occupied in the 1967 war.

We believe that the commitment of President Obama to peace offers all parties a unique opportunity that we all must seize to achieve peace that will ensure security and stability to all of us.

Jordan profoundly welcomes President Obama's commitment to the two state solution and achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Jordan fully supports the US and international efforts to resume serious negotiations with a sense of urgency between Israel and the Palestinians as well as between Israel and Syria and Lebanon with the view of attaining the two state solution and comprehensive peace.

Furthermore Jordan stresses the need to stop all settlement activity, including natural growth and halt all unilateral measures in the occupied territories in general and in Jerusalem in particular.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has been posing a real threat to the stability of our region for a long period of time. Therefore, Jordan calls for the establishment of a WMD free Zone in the Middle East. We believe that all countries in our region without exception should commit to the objective of rendering the Middle East a WMD free zone. The acquisition of WMD whether nuclear, biological or chemical by any country in the region will trigger an arms race that in turn could lead to the use of such weapons. The International Community has to exert every effort it has to help solve this issue, and to rid our region of these weapons.

On the other hand, the rights of states to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes must be respected according to the International doctrines and safeguards of the IAEA. Countries that respect the IAEA safeguards should be assisted in seeking alternative energy resources such as nuclear energy.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Jordan is embarking on building a regional model through the implementation of a comprehensive home-grown reform agenda, with the aim of propelling growth and realizing a sustainable improvement in the welfare of citizens. Jordan's vision is to develop a modern, tolerant, and open society, and to establish itself as a successful model of reform and development conceived and implemented from within. With this in mind, Jordan is moving towards a society that respects diversity and regards it as a source of national strength and pride, where majority rule is coupled with minority right and where personal and public freedoms are upheld.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me here, to express on behalf of the Jordanian government, our sincere thanks to Egypt for hosting the next Mediterranean Conference which is going to be held in Cairo between 14-15 December and to express our satisfaction for hosting the 2008 OSCE-Mediterranean Conference last year in Amman, which addressed some of our aspirations for the continued development of the OSCE's initiatives towards the region.

We highly value the participation of the Palestinian National Authority in our Conference, which took place for the first time and upon Jordan's invitation during last year's conference in Amman.

We believe that granting the Palestinian National Authority the status of being a partner for cooperation at the OSCE, among other Mediterranean Partners, would constitute an important confidence building measure in the region, and a positive signal. Its status as a Mediterranean partner would enable the OSCE to expand its activities to this geopolitical zone that is of particular relevance to security in Europe. Finally, I would like to commend the Foreign Minister of Malta for his proposal to offer to host the 2010 Mediterranean Conference on the Northern Shore of the Mediterranean. We support this initiative and believe that it will further enhance the cooperation between the Participating States and the Mediterranean Partners.

Thank you.