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**STATEMENT BY
MR. JOSÉ MANUEL GARCÍA-MARGALLO,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CO-OPERATION OF THE
KINGDOM OF SPAIN, AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Dublin, 6 December 2012

Mr. Chairperson,
Ministers,
Heads of delegations,

The destiny of this Organization, which today comprises 57 States, began to become clear when Europe decided to move away from confrontation and to agree to live freely together. Just a few years later, harmony and freedom were restored in Spain through the 1978 Constitution.

Every activity makes use of discourse. This Organization has been doing so over the years, institutionalizing the principles of dialogue and integration. The challenge that faces us today is to move forward, a challenge that results from the difficulty of establishing discourse that has meaning for everyone.

The proposals that Spain is supporting at this meeting today are based on the aforementioned principles, which the Government of my country espouses in the face of any challenge.

We are all aware of the destructive potential that divisive forces have had on cohabitation and stability on the continent. We are aware of the destructive potential of exclusive and selective nationalism. Any project, whatever its nature, that does not aim at integration is irrelevant and trivial. How can those who deny their relevance to present-day national boundaries accept even more ambitious and demanding ones?

We believe in ethical terms that it is more beneficial to resolve problems at a global, national or any other level by finding common solutions rather than through schism and enmity.

It is this approach that clearly guides us today in Spain and in all European and non-European societies. The moral progress that has been made in our era is the belief in the existence of a social ethic that permits us to live together.

We aspire to a free and democratic Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian community, without forgetting that its security is closely linked to that of adjacent areas, particularly the Mediterranean.

Co-operation with the Mediterranean has been one of the priorities of the Irish Chairmanship that Spain supports with particular interest. It will be difficult to achieve stability in the OSCE area if the countries of the Mediterranean, which have recently embarked on processes of transition, do not manage to establish them and in doing so lay the foundation for stable and fruitful coexistence. I encourage these countries to avail themselves of the assistance offered by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

We live in inspiring but difficult times. It is important to improve co-ordination on issues such as cybersecurity, and combating drug trafficking and terrorism.

A high-level conference on victims of terrorism was held in July of this year in Madrid. I thank all participating States for their co-operation. The victims of terrorism have shown us the way to go by refraining from taking justice into their own hands and relying at all times on the mechanisms of the rule of law.

The current economic difficulties make clear the relevance of economic co-operation. I firmly believe that the crises present opportunities for a new beginning.

The euro is a symbol of the unity of Europeans and of the political will to complete project Europe in its economic dimension. It is only by regaining confidence in our project that we will manage to persuade others to believe in it. The road to this goal is one of sacrifice and solidarity by all. Here too we must have the intelligence and generosity necessary to find discourse that will be amenable to everyone.

The OSCE should play an important role in the creation of mutual confidence and co-operation for sustainable development. To this end, Spain believes that progress needs to be made in good governance, transparency and combating corruption.

I should like to close my statement with the human dimension. We cannot have durable political and economic structures without respect for human beings. As Seneca, a universal Spaniard, said, "Man is sacred to his fellow men". Spain continues to work towards a global moratorium on the death penalty.

I welcome Mongolia as a new participating State and congratulate the Irish authorities on their excellent work during their Chairmanship, their hospitality and their initiatives, which Spain supports. I wish success to Ukraine in its forthcoming Chairmanship and assure it of Spain's collaboration.

Thank you.