



*Summit of the Organisation
for Security and Cooperation in Europe
(OSCE)*

(Astana, 1-2 December 2010)

Address of H.E Mr. Abdelhafidh HARGUEM

Secretary of State

to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

in Charge of Maghreb, Arab and African Affairs

(Tunisia)

Your Excellency Mr. Noursoultan Nazarbaev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Mr. Secretary General of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Excellencies Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to convey the warmest greetings of **His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia** to **His Excellency Mr. Noursoultan Nazarbaev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, as well as to the participants in the Summit of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

I wish to express my deepest thanks to the authorities of the host country for their warm welcome and for the high quality of our meetings as well as for the good conditions of our stay. My thanks also go to Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE, for the valuable efforts he is constantly deploying to further promote the role of the Organisation and to fulfill its objectives for the sake of peace and security in the world.

Mr. President,

Our summit takes place in a particular context marked by the dramatic increase of sources of tension and the aggravation of phenomena like terrorism, violence and intolerance amid an international economic and financial crisis that is sparing none of our countries.

To cope with this situation which jeopardizes all mankind, member countries or partners of the OSCE are urged to intensify their concerted actions and to increase synergies in order to further enable our states to tackle all risks of instability seriously threatening peace and stability in the world.

In this regard, Tunisia has always advocated a comprehensive approach, involving close interaction and correlation between the political, securitarian, economic, social and environmental dimensions.

To help enhance prospects of peace and security in the world requires from all of us the need to seek - *through dialogue* - just and durable settlements to the conflicts that continue to be a matter of common concern, such as the Middle East crisis.

Tunisia – *a peace and justice-loving country* - will endeavour to actively contribute to all efforts undertaken at the international level to bring about a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement to this conflict on the basis of international legality and in conformity with relevant Security Council Resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. These efforts aim particularly at establishing an independent and viable Palestinian State and providing the right conditions for peaceful coexistence of all peoples in the region.

Promoting peace and security in the world could be achieved through tackling the very causes of terrorism. Convinced that terrorism and extremism flourish in environments characterized by marginalisation, exclusion and poverty, Tunisia considers that unilateral security measures have shown their limits, which undoubtedly calls for the urgent need for a greater international mobilisation to bring about a global, firm and concerted response to this phenomenon.

While calling for the strengthening of the international legal framework leading the fight against terrorism and all forms of organised crime through the elaboration of a Code of Conduct and the organisation of an International Conference under the Auspices of the United Nations on this issue, Tunisia has always advocated a genuine international partnership based on shared responsibility and solidarity likely to cope with poverty in the world.

In this regard, we call for the prompt and effective setup of the **World Solidarity Fund** proposed by Tunisia and approved by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2002. The operationalisation of the Fund will undeniably contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Objectives, mainly by reducing the poverty rate by 50% in the world by the year 2015.

Promoting International Peace and Security requires the enhancement of our cooperation in the human dimension. It is important, in this respect, to intensify the fight against all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia and to combat Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, mainly through the promotion of dialogue between cultures, civilisations and religions as well as the expansion of values of moderation, open-mindedness and tolerance.

In this context, we would like to express our satisfaction for the appeal launched in the

Astana Declaration aiming at protecting Youth against dangers emanating from terrorism and extremism.

It is needless to say that “a more secure, stable, even-handed and developed World free from conflicts and extremism” will depend on how much interest we attach to youth and education in conformity with universal values and ideals”.

The vital interest to anchor these universal values in the world youth was strongly stressed in the **UN-Sponsored Initiative** adopted by the General Assembly in 2009 “ **International Year of Youth: Mutual Dialogue and Understanding** ”, launched at the very beginning by **President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali** for the proclamation of the Year 2010 as the **International Year of Youth**.

Mr. President,

Being a mediterranean partner country for cooperation and within the spirit of the indivisibility and interdependence of security in the Euro-Mediterranean space, a principle established by the Helsinki Final Act, Tunisia believes that dialogue between the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the mediterranean partners for cooperation, needs to be reactivated on a basis adapted to the nature of the challenges facing our region and the expectations of our peoples in terms of security and cooperation for development.

We consider this summit to be the appropriate forum to re-assess relations between the OSCE and Southern Mediterranean Partners likely to promote a new vision for relations linking the OSCE with Mediterranean partner countries based on principles of cooperation and solidarity.

To this extent, Tunisia suggests integrating the security dimension in the Mediterranean basin in the topic already tackled by the OSCE regarding “Dialogue on Security within the OSCE”. We also propose to consolidate multilateral cooperation and dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean within the OSCE on economic and environmental issues, including challenges of migration, desertification and the management of water resources in the region.

The attention that Tunisia attaches to the OSCE stems from its conviction that security in Europe is closely linked to the security of its Mediterranean neighbours. The dialogue between the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean partners for Cooperation represents, as a matter of fact, an important framework of exchange and an

appropriate instrument of cooperation which could help us benefit from our respective experiences and act together in an efficient way for the interest of our peoples with a view to serve the interests of our peoples.

In this context, proposals put forward by the OSCE and the mediterranean partners for Cooperation should help create a true area of partnership for peace and security in the Mediterranean which take into account our common concerns as well as social and political specificities of the region. Indeed, we do believe that we have to deeply reflect about the setting up of an OSCE/MPC follow-up mechanism likely to be the appropriate framework for reflection and assessment of joint actions in a spirit of shared responsibility.

It is, in fact, through political dialogue that we might set up a Stability and Security Pact based on mutual trust and respect.

Taking into account the request of the Palestinian Authority to be a Mediterranean partner in the OSCE could only contribute to the consolidation of this dialogue.

Thank you for your kind attention