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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MS. FAOUZIA MEBARKI,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA TO THE
OSCE, AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Vienna, 3 and 4 December 2020

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I should like to begin by expressing Algeria's warm thanks to Albania, and especially to Ambassador Igli Hasani and all his staff, for the excellent chairmanship and good organization of this important annual meeting, while successfully overcoming the constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chairmanship has been marked by a commitment to strengthening the partnership with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group, thanks also to the excellent Swedish Chairmanship of the Group under the expert leadership of Ambassador Ulrika Funered.

Madam Chairperson,

In her report yesterday, the Acting Secretary General stressed the importance of partnerships for the OSCE in creating new synergies. While Algeria supports that approach, we are simply wondering how we can hope to strengthen co-operation within the framework of the Mediterranean Partnership when this geographical area is subject to several ongoing conflicts that continue to claim casualties every day.

As long as international law is flouted, United Nations Security Council resolutions are ignored and international legality is violated, there will never be peace and security in the countries concerned or in the local region as a whole.

Algeria does not wish to hide its deep concern over the conflicts that plague our region. In Western Sahara and Palestine, in Libya and Mali, the people are waiting for the international community to provide a just and lasting solution in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions with account taken of the rights of peoples to self-determination and free choice without foreign interference.

Yesterday, and this morning, I have listened carefully to the statements by the participating States and I understood and appreciated their concern about the conflicts in Europe and the surrounding area.

We understand this concern because Algeria is surrounded by ongoing hostilities that lead to or exacerbate many problems such as population displacement (with hundreds or even thousands of refugees), diseases and other ills, which take a very heavy human and financial toll on all the countries concerned.

Madam Chairperson,

In addition to these conflicts, which clearly persist owing to a lack of sincere political will, there has been a documented increase in transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, cybercrime and trafficking in human beings. All these crimes are fuelling the terrorism that continues to strike throughout the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has cast a further shadow over a situation that is already fraught with harmful factors. This pandemic has put our countries to a harsh test, and its economic consequences are likely to be dire.

This is why Algeria believes that it is important for those in power to put aside their leadership quarrels and throw their full weight behind efforts to usher in a new era of sincere dialogue in good faith between the direct adversaries in all the conflicts, sores that hinder development in all the areas affected by the hostilities.

Algeria remains motivated by the will to uphold the principles of international law and universal values in order to achieve the noble ideals of peace and security for all.

Thank you for your kind attention.