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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SB  
Nº: L/09/12

New York, September 12 2012

Mr. Jan Eliasson,  
Deputy Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

DSG



Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,

The Governments of Morocco and Spain have agreed to launch an initiative on "Mediation in the Mediterranean Region", as part of their commitment to the promotion of mediation efforts and as members of the Friends of Mediation.

In this regard, we have the honour to invite your Excellency to attend a Ministerial Breakfast Meeting for the launching of the initiative, to be held on September 28, 2012 from 8 to 9:45, at the International Peace Institute, 777 United Nations Plaza, in New York.

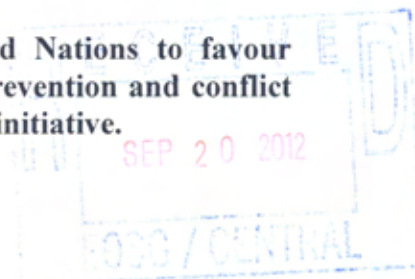
This initiative is inscribed in the framework of the 2011 General Assembly Resolution 65/283 entitled "*Strengthening the role of Mediation in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, Conflict Prevention and Resolution*" and has taken into account your subsequent report and the *Guidance for a more effective mediation.*

Taking into account this background and the invitation to Member States to develop national mediation capacities and to use those of the UN and of the regional and sub-regional organizations, the Governments of Spain and Morocco decided to launch a series of events on Mediation in the Mediterranean Region. Please find attached a Concept Note explaining the scope and objectives of this initiative.

The September Ministerial Meeting to launch the initiative is organized in cooperation with the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs and the International Peace Institute, and will have the participation of countries of the region and of other some experienced players in mediation.

Bearing in mind the relevance of the work of the United Nations to favour mediation as a tool for the settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, we would be very grateful for your support to the initiative.

SCH/08/003





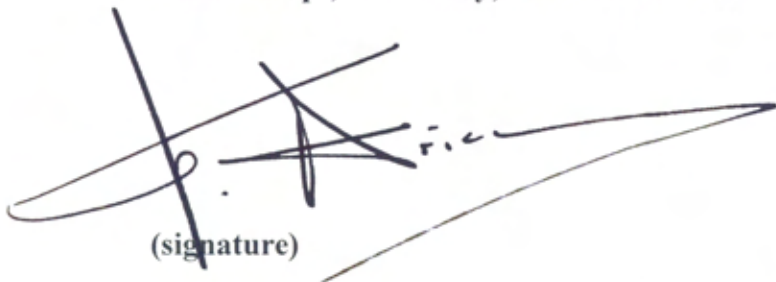
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**We sincerely hope you will be able to join us at this Ministerial Meeting and look forward to your valuable participation.**

**Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.**



(signature)

**H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias  
Ambassador of the  
Kingdom of Spain**



(signature)

**H.E. Mr. Mohammed Loulichki  
Ambassador of the  
Kingdom of Morocco**



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## Concept paper for the Ministerial Breakfast On

### "Mediation in the Mediterranean Region"

#### Proposal for a Joint Morocco-Spain series on "Mediation in the Mediterranean: Practice and Challenges"

Spain and Morocco are active members of the Friends of Mediation, fully engaged in promoting mediation efforts and at the same time committed to the different processes embracing the Mediterranean Region.

#### AIM:

Morocco and Spain have decided to partner to launch a series of events on Mediation in the Mediterranean. These series aims to develop the practice of mediation in the Mediterranean at the regional, national and local levels.

#### CONCEPT:

The Mediterranean is seen as a conflict prone area. Some of the conflicts in the Mediterranean are among the most protracted and longstanding, despite attempts by members of the area to promote the objective of a "shared peace and prosperity area".

The improvement of political, economic and social situation in the Mediterranean is a key element for the advent of that objective. The development differential between the two shores is among the highest in the planet, causing threats to regional security.

The persistence of volatility in the Mediterranean jeopardizes friendly relations among States, hinders the development of international cooperation and results in the delay of the advent of democratic basis for pluralistic societies.

The Union for the Mediterranean and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership are important processes that have in common the promotion of confidence building among the countries of the Mediterranean region. Recent transformative events in this region, have demonstrated the need for both a renewed partnership and an assistance for countries in transition.

Mediation can play an important role in this context, addressing and preventing conflicts at different levels, across and among societies in the Mediterranean region, and building upon the various relevant ongoing initiatives, in particular in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

As the Secretary General has stated, mediation continues to be one of the most useful and frequently employed means of conflict prevention. It is so reflected in UN Charter and resolution 65/283 about strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution.



Mediation is a promising and cost-effective tool that can benefit from a synergy of actions between different institutional structures and at different levels. Mediation promotion and dissemination thereof as a best practice among countries in the region can be a catalyst for the elimination of causes of tension in the Mediterranean and for the promotion of just and lasting solutions through peaceful means.

In RES/ 65/283 the General Assembly encourages Member States to develop national mediation capacities and to use those of the UN and of the regional and sub regional organizations, stressing the importance of cooperation in this field.

#### OBJECTIVES:

- Develop national and local mediation capacities and support the use of mediation by political and social institutions. States and International organizations are active mediators in international affairs and their capacities have to be strengthened.
- Fostering synergies and coordination among different relevant actors in the Med Region, namely countries, international and regional organizations. Coordination and coherence between the different actors which play a role in the field of mediation are of paramount importance. For this reason, resolution 65/283 stresses the importance of partnerships and coordination of international, regional and sub regional organizations with the United Nations, with each other, and with civil society. It underlines also the need to develop mechanisms to improve information sharing, cooperation and coordination.
- Involvement of the civil society. Collaboration and partnerships with civil society can provide us with the capacity to take the most of its respective comparative advantages. We need to make mediation processes more inclusive and improve relations with civil society which can offer us very valuable tools.
- Highlight the role of mediation processes to prevent the re-emergence of conflicts and create conditions for sustainable development.
- Exchanges of experiences, good practices and lessons learnt, together with an improvement of the expertise and professionalism of the mediation teams. Mediation is a specialized activity which requires adequate formation and training for mediators and their support teams.
- To enhance the participation of women in mediation activities.
- To favour the inclusion of Mediation as a tool for conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building, as a subject matter in universities and other academic institution programs.
- Promoting dialogue and culture of peace to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts,
- To highlight the importance of dialogue as a tool and objective of the mediation
- To highlight the importance of the ownership of the process of mediation by involved actors
- To create synergies among different initiatives on mediation in the Mediterranean

#### THE SERIES:

The Series would be formally launched at Ministerial level, by the Ministers of Spain and Morocco, in a parallel event during the General debate of the 67th Session of the General Assembly (third week of September). The event will allow the opportunity to seize the presence of other Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the Mediterranean and the wider area to engage positively and constructively.

The series will start with three initial meetings: the first is the Ministerial meeting in New York, followed by two other gatherings hosted by Spain and Morocco in partnership with Spanish and Moroccan Think tanks. Other meetings would follow either in the region or in New York.

#### THEMATIC ISSUES:

This initiative could be structured on several meetings with specific thematic issues such as:

- The value added of mediation in the context of peaceful settlement of disputes
- The professionalization of mediation.
- The role of women in mediation in the Med region.
- Mediation in cross-cultural conflicts in the Mediterranean
- Mediation and the Rule of law (High level debate on the rule of law at the GA).
- Strengthening of the institutional frameworks for mediation and capacity-building and support for academia and civil society organizations.
- The mediators' profile

#### PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS:

For the events that will be organized in New York, the International Peace Institute (IPI) can be approached. Their long experience in events management and policy facilitation can be beneficial for the project.

High level officials from the United Nations organization are to be approached.

Participation of representatives from regional organizations, mainly the Union for the Mediterranean, the Arab League, the UE and the OIC, among others, is highly recommended.

For the events in Morocco and Spain, civil society and think tanks and academicians will be approached and assist each country in the organization and development of the meetings.

The participation of national and international media is recommended.

Morocco and Spain can request IPI to issue a publication at the end of the series that can be distributed to Member States.