



**World Political Forum
Granada, 9&10 December 2005**

Message from the Alhambra

We, participants in the seminar “*Mediterranean: meeting and alliance of civilizations*”, after an in-depth study and discussion inspired by the symbol of peaceful cultural pluralism that Granada represents,

Declare to all peoples, decision-makers, institutional leaders, mass media and particularly the youth:

- 1) To achieve the objectives unanimously supported by the world community, particularly the Millennium Development Goals and the historic goal of the Alliance of Civilizations, it is necessary, above all, to overcome the gap between words and deeds, the inertia of political thinking and the paralysis of political will. We need new thinking responding to the challenges of a rapidly changing world.
- 2) We call for mobilization of all those – the vast majority – who want peace, justice and security for themselves and the coming generations. We emphasize the need for active efforts of civil society organizations and institutions to involve millions of people in the process of interaction and better mutual understanding of cultures, faiths and civilizations.
- 3) For the accomplishment of the goals of the Barcelona Process started in 1995, both the Northern and Southern shores of the *Mare Nostrum* must make urgent changes in their current positions. The European Union – by adjusting its trade policies, investing in capacity building and development,

and adopting an integrative approach to migration flows, with safeguards for cultural identities. The Southern Mediterranean countries – by progressively opening up their governance, promoting democratic values and human rights, with freedom of expression and citizen participation.

- 4) Resolution of the long-standing conflict in the Middle East is essential not only to improve stability in the Mediterranean but also to address the major threats the international community is facing today. In this regard, the concerted involvement of the “quartet” – the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia –, as well as naturally the peoples of the countries concerned, is indispensable.

- 5) A genuine space of shared peace and prosperity will result from new policies and strategies overcoming confrontational patterns. Above the economic disparities and technological gaps, the real problems are of cultural and political nature, and therefore political and cultural solutions are needed. The proposal for a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean can provide, following the Helsinki Final Act model, the way to engage, besides the European Union, Russia and the Mediterranean countries, the United States and other concerned countries and international organizations, particularly the United Nations.

Alhambra, Granada, 10th December 2005