



Remarks by UfMS Secretary General Ahmad Masa'deh
at the Signature Ceremony of the
Headquarters Agreement of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
Madrid, 4 May 2010

***Your Excellency Minister Moratinos,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Two months after the adoption of the Statutes of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and the re-confirmation of my appointment as Secretary General, last March 3th in Barcelona, it is a pleasure for me that I have just signed few minutes ago with His Excellency the Minister the Headquarters Agreement between the Spanish Government and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, thereby bestowing upon the Secretariat its legal personality and such immunities and rights often adjacent to comparable international organizations.

I would like to grasp this opportunity to express my utmost and sincere gratitude to Minister Moratinos for his personal commitment to the Mediterranean cause and his relentless efforts in favor of cooperation, peace and dialogue along the countries of the Mediterranean basin. Without his vigorous belief and determination, it would not have been possible to be here today.

This gratitude needs to be extended to the Spanish Authorities, the Catalan Government and the Barcelona City Council and above all the people of Spain whose support has been crucial during the last months. Since my appointment as Secretary General, I have been assuming my responsibilities with full dedication and devotion in full cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Generalitat de Catalunya in order to outline and define the details for the establishment of the Secretariat in its headquarters in Barcelona.

I am also grateful to all 43 Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Franco-Egyptian co-presidency and other Partners for their commitment to the process which is instrumental for its success and sustainability.

The Headquarters Agreement grants legal personality to the Secretariat. This was the last step necessary to guarantee the privileges and immunities for carrying out its activities. And it is also a new step forward to guarantee an empowered and strong Secretariat, absolutely necessary to achieve our goals and start executing our core mandate pertaining to the identification and processing of concrete projects. The establishment of the Secretariat will also allow us to focus on other milestones of the UfM including the



upcoming 2nd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Union for the Mediterranean which is due to take place at the beginning of next month in Barcelona. It is our responsibility to work smartly to ensure the success of this Summit.

Let me thank once more Minister Moratinos for his sincere cooperation in all this process and I remain at your disposal for any question you may have.