The Spanish-Moroccan Initiative on Mediation in the Mediterranean Region seeks to provide support for the UN Secretary General’s efforts to strengthen the role of mediation as a means for conflict resolution, and more specifically, to act as an instrument for the implementation of Resolution 65/283. In this regard, the initiative seeks to complement the actions that Turkey and Finland have taken as co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Mediation, by focusing on a specific region – the Mediterranean – and enhancing mediation at that level. The initiative therefore seeks to engage Mediterranean countries in an effort at strengthening institutional national capacities, and the coordination and creation of synergies among different actors, by devising tools and mechanisms that can help manage/solve the different conflicts in the Mediterranean basin.

To this end, and as a means of launching the process, Spain and Morocco intend to hold two initial seminars, in February and the Spring of 2013 respectively, in which the official focal points of 26 countries, as well as representatives from relevant regional and international institutions, non-governmental organizations, academia, local actors with expertise in mediation, and experienced mediators, will be brought together to discuss how best to strengthen the role and effectiveness of mediation in the Mediterranean, and improve overall capacities.

This first seminar, co-organized by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax) in Madrid, seeks to engage the above-mentioned actors in a reflection on the means to enhance mediation capacities in the Mediterranean, including, among others, increased cooperation between international and regional actors on one hand, and national and local actors on the other, improved mediation expertise, and promotion of inclusiveness and of women’s participation in mediation processes.

1 Strengthening the Role of Mediation in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, Conflict Prevention and Resolution (65/283 of 28 July 2012)
TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Arrival of participants to Madrid on Sunday 10 February

MONDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2013
(Sala Azcárate, Palacio de Viana)

10:00 – 11:00 Inaugural Session

Opening Remarks:

- José Manuel García-Margallo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain
- Saad Eddine El Othmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Morocco
- Jordan Ryan, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP
- Tawakkul Karman, Senior member of the Al-Islah political party; co-recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:30 Session I: Fostering Synergies and Strengthening Mediation Institutional Capacities in the Mediterranean Region

What are the key institutional capacities that have to be developed at each level of mediation (local, national, regional, international)? What are the synergies between the various levels of mediation? What are the specific needs of the Mediterranean region and in what ways could/should they be addressed? What role should educational institutions play in developing mediation capacities?

Keynote Speech:

- Jorge Sampaio, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, United Nations

With the support of:
Speakers:

- **Levent Bilman**, Director of the Policy and Mediation Division, DPA, UN
- **Tuija Talvitie**, Executive Director and Chair of the Leadership Team, Crisis Management Initiative
- **Assia Bensalah Alaoui**, former President of the European Commission’s High Level Advisory Group on Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean Area
- **Mark Freeman**, Executive Director, Institute for Integrated Transitions

Moderator:

- **Juan José Escobar**, Ambassador at large for Mediterranean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain

14:00 – 15:30 **Finger Lunch**

16:00 – 18:00 **Session II: The Role of International and Regional Organizations in Mediation in the Mediterranean**

What mediation role have international and regional organizations been playing in the Mediterranean? What specific advantages do they bring to the table and under what circumstances? What types of mediation could those organizations promote? Are there any coordination mechanisms between those organizations and national and local organizations/mediators? What sort of synergies should they seek to establish with national and local actors?

Speakers:

- **Jordan Ryan**, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP

With the support of:
- **Tomas Henning**, member of the Mediation Support Team, Conflict Prevention, Peace-Building and Mediation, European External Action Service, EU

- **Abou El Mahassine Fassi Fihri**, Regional Director, MENA, Search for Common Ground

- **Hesham Youssef**, Senior Adviser to the Secretary General of the Arab League

**Moderator:**

- **Azzeddine Farhane**, Director for the United Nations and International Organizations, Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

20:30 Welcoming Dinner

Keynote Speech:

**Bernardino León Gross**, EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean

Introduced by:

**Gonzalo de Benito**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Spain

**TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2013**

09:30 – 11:30 Session III: The Role of the Mediator. Inclusive Mediation Processes – Lessons Learned and Ways Forward

*How can the participation of affected sectors of the population be ensured in a mediation process? How can their needs be effectively addressed? How can SC resolution 1325 (2000) that promotes women’s participation in peacemaking feed into resolution 65/283 (2011)? How can mediators encourage the negotiating parties to establish mechanisms/forums to enable the engagement of women?*

Keynote Speech:

With the support of:
- **Tawakkul Karman**, Senior member of the Al-Islah political party; co-recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize

Speakers:

- **Antje Herrberg**, Co-founder and CEO, mediatEUr
- **Anne Marie Goetz**, Chief Adviser on Peace and Security, UN Women
- **Hasan Al Momani**, Director, Regional Centre on Conflict Prevention

Moderator:

- **Emilio Cassinello**, Director General, CITpax

11:30 – 12:00 **Coffee Break**

12:00 – 14:00 **Session IV: The Role of National/Local Mediation Actors and their Capacity of Coordination with Other Actors**

*What is the nature of local mediation? How can information sharing and joint activities as well as analysis and trends exchange be encouraged between local and international actors supporting mediation processes, as well as among local actors themselves? What are the salient needs of local mediators today and what is the most effective way of developing their capacities? How can mediation be rendered more inclusive, favoring the participation of civil society and academia? What are the best mechanisms for cooperation between local and other levels of mediation during different phases of a conflict (“during”, post-conflict or during transitions)?*

Speakers:

- **Sylvia Tiryaki**, Deputy Director, Global Political Trends Center
- Andrea Zaki, Director General, Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services

- Walid Moubarak, Director, Institute of Diplomacy and Conflict Transformation, Lebanese American University

- Youssef Mahmoud, Senior Adviser, IPI

Moderator:

- Catherine Woollard, Executive Director, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

14:00 – 14:15 Concluding Remarks:

- Santiago Cabanas, Director General of Foreign Affairs and Multilateral, Global and Security Affairs, MFA, Spain

With the support of: