

Kingdom of Morocco



STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

RIO + 20 CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

June 20-22, 2012

**Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
President of the General Assembly of the United Nations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me tell you how happy I am to participate in this conference on behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco and to extend my sincere thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Brazil, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to the Moroccan delegation.

The convening of this conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, 20 years after the first Earth Summit, held here, demonstrates the commitment of the international community to the principles of the Rio Declaration for Sustainable Development to ensure sustainable development founded on serving people and reconciling the requirements of economic and social development on one hand and the imperative of environment protection on the other hand, so as to preserve the rights of future generations.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Despite efforts to lay the foundations for sustainable development, the international community still faces difficulties to respond to the challenges posed by this critical stage in human history. The Global economic crisis, spikes in food and energy prices, negative effects of climate change, biodiversity decline and high levels of poverty and unemployment, are all problems that will be exacerbated if the international community failed to take necessary actions to address them.

Therefore, we are today required to carry out an objective assessment of the progress to date in order to consolidate the gains

and overcome the obstacles that have prevented the implementation and effectiveness of all decisions of this summit and to renew our commitment to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions – economic, social and environmental.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The world has changed a lot since the Rio Declaration of 1992, because of the accelerated change of technological development as well as production and consumption patterns; it has also changed because of the successive political, economic and social crises that weakened the ability of the international community to address global problems and to comply strictly with its commitments towards sustainable development.

One of the latest illustrations of these crises is what happened in some parts of the Arab world, which is referred to as the Arab Spring, that came to express peoples' rejection to unsustainable patterns of governance; patterns that were marked, with differences from one country to another, by political control and economic corruption and that kept large segments of the population living in extreme vulnerability.

In this context, the Kingdom of Morocco has been able to achieve major reforms while keeping stability and continuity, thanks not only to the climate of openness that prevailed at the coming of the Arab Spring, but also to the initiatives taken by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, which made it possible to approve a new constitution and organize free and fair elections.

In this context, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco adopted a political and economic program based on three pillars and rooted in sustainable development principles, namely:

- Encouraging investment and facilitating investor's activities as a basis for growth and jobs creation.

- Correcting economic, environmental, regulatory and governance failures and imbalances.
- According special attention to disadvantaged people to enable them to restore their human dignity and to integrate them in the economic cycle.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Since the Rio Conference in 1992, the Kingdom of Morocco initiated policies that aimed at reconciling gradually the requirements of social and economic development with the requirements of the environment protection despite some constraints such as the high energy prices and the negative effects of climate change on the economy of our country.

In this context, Morocco aspires to raising the contribution of renewable energies in electric power generation to 42% by 2020 and advancing the energy efficiency in a number of economic sectors.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today we need an economic model capable of ensuring development, improving the human life framework, and promoting moderation in consumption, balance between generations and between social groups within the same generation and between rich and poor countries.

Concerning the environmental governance, the Kingdom of Morocco has made strategic decisions to move towards a green economy, to strengthen human development, and to accelerate the programs and environmental measures in all areas. The Kingdom of Morocco calls for strengthening homogeneity and convergence within the UN system to better integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. Morocco calls also for an effective implementation of the commitments made by the Northern countries to assist countries of the South through additional financial resources and through the

transfer of technology in the fields of environment and green economy.

**Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The world should endeavor a special effort to integrate poor countries into the global economy and our countries should pay special attention to include disadvantaged groups in the economic cycle, not only for social reasons, but also for sound economic reasons to liberate a strong potential of growth for the benefit of all.

From this standpoint, we urge the international community to pay more attention to fighting poverty and to securing a decent living for people in different parts of the world and in particular the African continent where there are more centers of poverty, epidemics and diseases; a continent that requires an increasing attention from the international community both to show solidarity and help unlock the enormous economic potential of this continent.

Finally, I am confident that this conference will contribute to raising the level of mobilization of the international community on its way to achieving sustainable development. I want to acknowledge the efforts that have been carried out by the United Nations to build a world of solidarity.

Thank you for your attention.