

The Permanent Mission
of the Kingdom of Morocco
to the United Nations
New York



البعثة الدائمة للمملكة المغربية
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2020

Madam President of the Economic and Social Council,

The Kingdom of Morocco presented during the 2020 session of the High-Level Political Forum, the Voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of the sustainable development goals for the second time within 5 years since the adoption of the 2030 agenda. This, reaffirms Morocco's strong commitment to sustainable development as expressed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God protect him, in his address to the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the Kingdom of Morocco has engaged in a process of collective mobilization, at the national and international levels.

The main factors that contributed to advancing the positive dynamism and national mobilization to achieve the sustainable development goals in the Kingdom of Morocco can be summarized as follow:

Firstly: the voluntary policy for sustainable development, which was spurred by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, by placing it at the heart of the various sectoral development strategies, while considering Morocco's national priorities and taking into account its international commitments.

Secondly: adopting ambitious structural reforms that derive their spirit from the royal directives to elevate the right to sustainable development to a constitutional value. In this regard, the legal framework for sustainable development has been strengthened through the adoption of the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development and the launch of the next generation of strategies such as the National Sustainable Development Strategy, the Solar Energy Plan which is regarded as one of the most important pilot energy projects globally, in addition to the Green Morocco Plan for Agriculture and the Industrial Acceleration Plan. Believing in the pivotal role of human capital in national development, His Majesty, May God Assist Him, has launched in 2018 the third phase of the National Human Development Initiative, which aims to improve the livelihoods of upcoming generations and assist vulnerable communities.

Thirdly: strengthening the institutional framework for implementing the sustainable development goals through the establishment of the National Commission for Sustainable Development under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, in addition to a sub-national commission to monitor and track the implementation of the sustainable development goals, aiming to take the necessary measures to implement the 2030 Agenda and the National Sustainable Development Strategy.

Fourthly: adopting a viable strategy to mobilize and raise awareness about the importance of the 2030 Agenda, leading Morocco to initiate between 2016 and 2019, a series of national, regional and thematic consultations on sustainable development goals, in partnership with the United Nations system, which enabled all national stakeholders to unite to discuss the challenges and related issues of these goals.

In the fifth place, adopting a diversified strategy to mobilize financial resources from various sources and financial institutions.

Finally, fostering effective cooperation with the United Nations development agencies to assess sustainable development goals and related issues and adapt them to the national context, by signing a partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Program and ten United Nations agencies in Morocco.

Madam President,

Morocco has accomplished many advancement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We would like to highlight six main areas:

- 1- Improving the living conditions of the population:** as hunger was eliminated in 2014, and the poverty rate was reduced to 2.9% in 2018. Housing conditions were also improved, as the percentage of inappropriate housing in urban areas has decreased from 8.4% in 2004 to 3.6% in 2018. Many efforts were made to end rural isolation thanks to rural road projects, bringing the rate of ending isolation to 79.3% in 2017 compared to 54% in 2005.
- 2- In the area of health:** Morocco achieved, in 2018, fully or almost, the goals related to maternal and infant mortality.
- 3- In the area of education:** after generalization of primary education and achieving gender parity at all grade levels, the enrollment rate in preparatory and secondary education reached 92% in 2019.
- 4- Regarding renewable energies:** Morocco generates electricity from renewable sources that represent 34% of the national capacity for electricity production and 20% of total electricity production.
- 5- With regard to climate change:** despite the weak greenhouse gas emissions, Morocco is committed to reduce emissions by 42% by 2030 and to launch a disaster risk management strategy.
- 6- As for the 17th goal pertaining to partnership,** the Kingdom of Morocco is committed to the global partnership for development, particularly through the South-South cooperation.

The initiatives launched by His Majesty on the occasion of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22), such as the establishment of the three climate committees dedicated to the Sahel region, the Congo Basin region and the Island States, are an important example of Morocco's role as an effective partner, and its serious commitment to keep pace with the activation of the three committees to achieve their goals in protecting and sustaining natural ecosystems.

Adding to that, the launch of other pioneering initiatives, such as the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change initiative (the Triple A) and the Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa initiative (Triple S), in 2016.

On the other hand, Morocco's immigration policy is a leading reference on the African level, and this was embodied in designating His Majesty, as the Leader in charge of the migration issue within the African Union. To consolidate this policy, Morocco took the initiative to set up the African Migration Observatory in 2018.

Among the latest initiatives that demonstrate Morocco's commitment to Africa's development is the Royal High Initiative related to establishing an operational framework to assist African countries in their response against Covid-19 pandemic, as this initiative turned into an actual embodiment of the Moroccan African solidarity by sending medical aid to 20 African countries and to the African Union Commission.

Madam President,

In addition to these achievements, the national review enabled the identification of the challenges that remain, especially those related to the valuation of human capital, the expansion of the social protection system, the reduction of social and geographical differences, the acceleration of economic growth, the creation of decent

work opportunities, especially for youth and women, the sustainable management of natural resources, and combating the effects of climate change.

In order to consolidate the gains and raise the challenges presented, Morocco has launched a strategic process to reform and renew its development model, as His Majesty instructed to set up a special national committee for this purpose.

Thus, we are certain that this path will give a fresh breath to our tireless efforts to implement the sustainable development goals, especially in light of the presence of a monitoring mechanism headed by the prime minister, under which the task of tracking, evaluating and preparing an annual report on the sustainable development goals was assigned to the High Commission for Planning, which is our national and Independent institution, in charge of statistics.

The Kingdom of Morocco remains committed and strongly engaged to implement the 2030 at the local, national, continental and global levels.