

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

**Speech of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Taïb NACIRI,  
Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the High Level Segment of the 13th session  
of the Human Right Council**

Geneva, 3 March 2010

**Mr President of the Human Right Council,  
Madam High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am particularly pleased at the beginning of the 13th session of the Council of Human Rights, to address this honourable assembly and to reiterate on behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, its full and responsible commitment to international human rights standards of Human rights. This session that takes place when the Council's functioning during the five years of its existence, will be evaluated and the discussion on the guidelines governing the process of reviewing its status and mandate, during the next year.

I seize this opportunity to report on major achievements and reflect the dynamics of reform launched by my country, particularly in the legal system, at the institutional level and in the field of protection and promotion of human rights, within a comprehensive and progressive approach to constructing the rule of law, in harmony and conformity with international standards and in compliance with the core values of the Kingdom.

The reforms undertaken confirm Morocco's strategic and irreversible choices with respect to the promotion of democracy and the respect of human right values throughout the national territory, along with its firm rejection of instrumentalisation of these rights, by individuals or States, for purely political objectives with the purpose of jeopardizing sovereignty and integrity of States.

In this regard, Morocco is delighted for presenting, in collaboration with Norway, the draft resolution on human rights defenders adopted by the Human Rights Commission on 26 April 2000. This resolution underlines the relevance of consensual reference of the Declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

While emphasizing the nobleness of the human rights values and the positive role of the real human right defenders, Morocco denounces any instrumentalisation of human rights for political or hidden agendas of other parties.

**Mr President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Moroccan experience in human rights covers many fields among which, the enhancing of legislative and organisational texts, the creation of institution and necessary supervising mechanisms and efforts to consolidate the human rights culture in society.

This experience is the result of continuous efforts, guided by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, implemented with contribution of ministries and national institutions,

supported by organizations of civil society and with the participation of all potential national, both within Morocco and abroad. It was constituted as a scope of reforms with a structuring nature, deep and permanent.

Amid major structural reforms, launched by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, that go in line with Moroccan international commitments, we may mention justice and regionalisation.

As far as justice is concerned, His Majesty devoted the entirety of his speech in 20th of August, 2009, to the reform of Justice. He laid out the vision and principles that should govern the desired profound and comprehensive reform, which, on the other hand, will be the outcome of a process of wide range consultations which was attended by key actors in the legal and judicial.

The declared goals of this reform are the enhancement of the independence, the modernization of Laws, the re-qualification of its structures and its staff, the improvement of the efficiency of justice and also the moralization of justice.

On the other hand, the Advisory Committee of Regionalization was created on the third of January, 2010, and will submit its proposals on an extended and advanced regionalisation. In this regard, His Majesty the King Mohammed VI highlighted in his speech creating this Commission that this regionalisation will not be a mere technical or administrative measure, but rather an institutional foundation for the Moroccan State in the context of an effective territorial governance built upon coherence and interaction.

The Southern Provinces of Morocco are at the heart of the major objectives of this reform. Morocco's initiative of a large autonomy status in the Moroccan Sahara was welcomed and considered by the international community as serious and credible, as it is in conformity with international legality and fulfils the requirements of self-determination in its modern concept. This initiative aims at finding a final political solution to the artificial different of the Moroccan Sahara on the basis of realism and the spirit of compromise, thus, paving the way for the consolidation of a strong Maghreb Arab Union in order to achieve social development and economic integration of the region.

**Mr President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

In addition to these structural reforms, the moralization of public life and the struggle against corruption in all its forms are among the priorities of national politics and public institutions. This is a demonstration of awareness of Morocco risk from the scourge of corruption and its negative impact on the effectiveness of ongoing reforms and their goals. It should be noted that Morocco will host in 2011 the 4th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the struggle against corruption; this event is a manifestation of the interest that Morocco attaches to this issue.

In terms of economic, cultural and social rights, National Initiative on Human Development, launched by His Majesty in 2005, is serving as framework for multiples actions on the ground that enhance the rights of society most vulnerable people. The Regional Development Agencies (South, North and Eastern) contribute strongly for their part to the respect of those rights.

Meanwhile, the health insurance program has been strengthened by expanding the basket of services provided by Compulsory Health Insurance (AMO) for private sector employees. Similarly, a television channel in Amazigh language has been launched, helping to enrich the media landscape, reflecting the cultural diversity in Morocco.

In the same logic, the Kingdom of Morocco pays particular attention to preservation of the environment through the early adoption of a National Charter on Environment and Sustainable Development.

**Mr President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Through the implementation of its commitments, Morocco continues its tireless efforts to harmonize its legislation with international instruments.

In this regard, the reform of several laws is included in the agenda of the Government, such as draft of penal code, criminal procedure and civil procedure. My country has just adopted in 2009 a law on protection of personal data, has launched a national debate on the future of the audiovisual sector, which experienced a boom and a remarkable breath of liberalization.

Moreover, in addition to significant progress on strengthening and consolidating the rights of women and children, the implementation of Family Code is subject to ongoing monitoring by the Government, which grants attention and increasing welfare. This has been subject of a pilot experience, launched during the years 2008 and 2009, and is evaluated continuously in order to develop it to ensure its success.

Concerning the Moroccan experience of transitional justice, we are now in an advanced stage of implementation of recommendations of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER). Indeed, the report of the Consultative Council of Human Rights (CCDH), published in December 2009 on the monitoring of these recommendations reflects the efforts made in this context, including compensation for damages individual and community rehabilitation; medical coverage; the preservation of memory, as well as in the process of legal and institutional reform, dissemination of the culture of human rights and developing a National Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights (PANDDH), through a participatory approach as recommended by the Vienna Conference of 1993.

Concerning the training on Human Rights, Morocco has put in place an Initiation Program aiming at increasing familiarity with relevant international Treaties. Scores of magistrates have benefited of such courses.

**Mr President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Kingdom of Morocco, which maintains close relations with the UN mechanisms for human rights, particularly with the High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR), reaffirms its willingness to further develop this cooperation. It is in this context that several meetings and international events are organized jointly.

My country will shortly host the 3rd meeting of reflection on the strengthening of the Council of Human Rights and the African regional seminar on racial hatred and freedom of expression.

Besides, Morocco, with Switzerland were initiator of the resolution on the adoption of a UN Declaration on education and training on human rights, Morocco hosted a seminar on the subject in July last year in Marrakech. And take this opportunity to congratulate the Advisory Committee on Human Rights (CCDH) for the quality of the draft, the text will be submitted to this honourable Council.

In the same time, the draft Arab Charter for the strengthening of the culture of human rights, proposed by Morocco to the League of Arab States, prepared last December in Rabat and adopted by the Bodies League in January 2010.

Moreover, cooperation with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (GDTFI) is also positive. In this regard, I would highlight the visit of the Working Group and the holding of its 88th session in June 2009 in Morocco, where he was able to examine efforts of Moroccan authorities in this field.

The King of Morocco remains committed to cooperate with the different international human right and reiterates its readiness to welcome the independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation to undertake a visit to Morocco within the context of its mandate.

Concerning the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Morocco - which was the facilitator - has had the opportunity to host in February 2008 in Rabat, the 1st seminar of the French speaking countries on the new mechanism, in particular to explain and discuss its terms, on the eve of the first reports including that of my country, in April 2008.

This cooperation will continue, because the Kingdom of Morocco will host next month in Rabat, a 2nd seminar of the French speaking countries devoted to implementing the recommendations of the UPR and evaluation of this mechanism.

**Mr President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Morocco, land of tolerance and openness, ensure the development of international cooperation links in the field of human rights, including on the regional level. Indeed, it has hosted the 7th Conference of National Institutions of Human Rights in Africa, in

November 2009 in Rabat, as well as training sessions for African experts in mediation to Diwan al-Madhalim (Ombudsman).

Regarding the Palestinian issue, the Kingdom of Morocco, which His Majesty King Mohammed VI chairs the Al-Quds Committee, reaffirms its commitments to defend the inalienable rights of the inhabitants of Al-Quds against the Israeli practices and systematic Judaization of these holy palces. It also reaffirms its full solidarity with the brotherly Palestinian people and continues its efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in this issue, thus contributing to strengthening peace in this region and to achieve well-being of its peoples.

In this occasion, I would like to express the entire solidarity of the Kingdom of Morocco with the Chile and France following the tragic catastrophes and to present our sincere and heartfelt condolences.

**Thank you for your attention.**