



Address by

His Majesty King Mohammed VI
King of Morocco

to

the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly
commemorating the 60th anniversary of the creation
of the United Nations Organization

New York
14 - 16 September 2005



Praise be to God,

Peace and Blessings be upon the
Prophet, His Kith and Kin

Distinguished Chairmen,
Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies,
Your Highnesses,
Mr. Secretary-General,

I should like, first, to offer my most sincere congratulations to my revered brother, His Excellency Hai Omar Bongo, and to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Goran Person, who have been chosen to co-preside over this historic meeting, which is unique in the history of the United Nations Organization. I wish them every success in conducting the proceedings of this Summit.

I also take this opportunity to express, once again, our thanks to the UN Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, for his constant and sincere efforts to uphold the objectives of the United Nations Organization, upgrade its structures, streamline its work, and enhance its ability to address the challenges of the 21st century and the third millennium.

The broad-based, high-level attendance at this important gathering reflects the historical and symbolic value of this session. It also sends a strong signal as to the commitment of our countries' leaders and peoples to the lofty ideals and objectives of the United Nations' system. Furthermore, it shows how much we value the important mission it is discharging, and appreciate the need to protect it and enhance its efficiency, so that it may continue to fulfil, as best as it can, the daunting tasks assigned to it.

The United Nations has demonstrated, especially over the last two decades, that it is a useful, efficient organization, capable of keeping in tune with the requirements of modern times, despite the dramatic changes that have taken place in the world since the end of World War II. Thus, such rules and principles as equality among states, respect for their sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, in addition to the need to refrain from resorting to - or threatening to resort to - force, and to the necessity to uphold the human rights of individuals and groups, still represent the cornerstone of any world order.



Morocco strongly believes that prevention of conflicts and their settlement through the peaceful means provided for in the Charter, are still the most efficient ways to preserve peace between states and peoples, whatever the nature of the disputes or differences between the parties to the conflict. More importantly, they are fundamental requirements, as well as a true test of how these principles have been complied with. Furthermore, they constitute a prerequisite for eradicating all hotbeds of tension, and for making headway in strengthening global security and achieving sustainable development and shared prosperity, which are now considered fundamental ingredients of regional and international stability.

Accordingly, we have always shown our readiness to settle the artificial dispute over our Sahara, in conjunction with our brothers in Algeria. By undertaking constructive measures and responding favourably to other initiatives, we have demonstrated how keen we are to develop bilateral relations in a spirit of solidarity, good neighbourliness and fruitful cooperation. and within the framework of a strategic approach designed to help build the Arab Maghreb Union on strong and sound foundations. We sincerely hope to be able to end this dispute once and for all, and are looking forward to working with our Maghrebian brothers and partners to strengthen cooperation and enhance stability and integrated development in our region.

With the same firmness and determination, Morocco has joined the international efforts being made to build a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, which enables all peoples in the region, including the Palestinian and Iraqi peoples, to enjoy freedom and security, within democratic, independent states. In addition, my country has contributed, for decades, to the United Nations' endeavours and operations designed to consolidate cease-fire agreements and foster the necessary conditions to build peace and reinforce stability in countries bedevilled by acute tensions and conflicts, or facing risks of dismemberment or balkanisation. This is why we now have forces in the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti, just as we sent contingents to Somalia, Angola and Bosnia in the past.

The United Nations' record which abounds with instances of peace-keeping achievements, confirms that building peace and stability at national, regional or international levels, still hinges on achieving a minimum level of development. For all segments of society, especially in developing and poor countries.

Recent breakthroughs in information and communication technology have contributed to bringing peoples and nations closer together, and made them more acutely aware of the real dangers threatening mankind, and of the need to address them through effective international solidarity and cooperation.



In this connection, we reaffirm Morocco's strong commitment to regional and international cooperation in the fight against the odious scourge of terrorism, which has worsened since the criminal attacks of September 11, 2001. In this regard, we believe that rigorous coordination will best illustrate how efficient the international community can be in confronting any challenge, provided true political will is displayed and the necessary means are pooled to achieve our shared objective and to enhance global security. With the same determination and sense of commitment, we insist on the pressing need for the international community to engage in such a pattern of cooperation and mutual assistance, in order to tackle the economic and social challenges which hinder growth and stability in the countries of the South, especially in Africa. These nations need help in their endeavour to shoulder their responsibilities with respect to achieving human development.

The Declaration of the Millennium we adopted five years ago shows how aware the international community is of the need to act in order to eradicate dire poverty and hunger, make primary education accessible to all, enhance gender equality, improve medical coverage, and fight HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases and pandemics.

Similarly, the final communiqués of both the Johannesburg and Monterrey conferences included clear commitments, which the international community pledged to honour within a specific period of time. This raised hopes, among impoverished peoples, that international solidarity was moving from the phase of promises and good wishes to that of action in the field, through the implementation of development programs and tangible projects that create wealth.

To give substance to those international commitments, and while chairing the Group of 77 and China in 2003, I focussed on mobilizing the resources needed to honour the pledges made, and to achieve the Millennium objectives and targets with respect to the countries of the South, especially in Africa. Thus, we managed to build international consensus in support of convening a high-level meeting to ensure follow-up to the Millennium objectives. This meeting was then expanded to tackle the reform of the UN system's regulations and structures.

Any objective assessment of the action undertaken by developing countries to honour their commitments with respect to the Declaration of the Millennium, cannot but highlight the commendable efforts these countries have made, whether through the adoption of sound public policies, the implementation of good governance or the mobilization of local resources. The goal is to create conditions conducive to optimal use of foreign investments, and to facilitate integration into the global economy. Though considerable, these efforts will not produce all the results expected, unless they are reinforced by greater assistance for development, following specific schedules. In addition to finding supplementary, innovative resources, customs exemptions should be considered, and the debts of poor countries cancelled or reduced.



The Kingdom of Morocco, in keeping with its international commitments, has adopted a Family Code which introduces gender equality, guarantees children's rights, puts an end to all forms of injustice to women and preserves their dignity, protects family cohesion and unity, and ensures women participate fully in national development. Moreover, I have launched the "National Initiative for Human Development", which is consistent with both the philosophy and objectives of the Millennium Declaration, and is part of a comprehensive approach based on enhancing political democracy, economic efficiency and social cohesion. The Initiative also enables each citizen to make the most of his or her skills and abilities in building a modern, democratic society based on equal opportunity, where human resources, on whom all development endeavours focus, are directly involved in both project design and implementation. Furthermore, this Initiative is based on the equitable distribution of the fruits of development among all regions and social strata. The aim is to reduce social and regional disparities, and to fight social exclusion, through a national effort designed to mobilize all resources and energies in order to free large segments of the population, especially young people, from the yoke of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, thus enabling them to lead the decent life we wish to offer all our citizens.

With the same conviction and resolve, the Kingdom of Morocco has pursued its tireless action to boost South-South co-operation and to promote a policy of effective solidarity with sister African nations. This policy is based on providing training in areas in which my country has both great experience and a proven record of competence; it is also based on opening the Moroccan market to exports from the least developed African countries, and on cancelling the debts they owe to Morocco.

Distinguished Chairmen,

The sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Organization is an opportunity of which we should avail ourselves, not so much to linger over past flaws or criticize certain deficiencies in the Organization's work - an exercise which would be both useless and frustrating - but rather to adopt a constructive approach, reiterate our sincere commitment to United Nations principles, and seek to mobilize our resources to achieve the modernization, reform and consolidation of the Organization. Indeed, the UN system is the most effective forum for engaging dialogue and negotiation, for finding suitable solutions to complex issues, and for developing an equitable multilateral world order acceptable to all.



We hope the celebration of the United Nations' sixtieth anniversary will be an occasion to revive the sagacious political vision and creative inspiration which contributed to the establishment of this prestigious institution. Thus, through collective, consensual will, we shall manage to introduce the structural and operational reforms needed, including those pertaining to the expansion of the Security Council, the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council to enhance its role in sustainable development, and the upgrading of the Commission on Human Rights, so that it may discharge its noble mission in a more effective, democratic way.

We sincerely hope our meeting will achieve results that meet the expectations of our peoples for a new human partnership, based on constructive co-operation. The ultimate objectives are to achieve peace, stability and development for all nations, to foster coexistence and interaction between cultures, and to build an alliance between civilizations, with a view to consolidating the perennial human values of freedom, equality, fraternity, solidarity, global security, justice and equity. In this connection, we want you to know how keen the Kingdom of Morocco is to work with you to uphold these ideals within the framework of a renovated UN system.

Thank you.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.